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THE CARELESS SMOKER.

The average smoker is too careless in the manner in which he tosses burning cigar and cigarette butts and lighted matches about. The chances are that no damage will be caused, and he takes those chances.. When a home, a business house, a city block, or even a large section of a city, is burned by a fire starting from a smoker's carelessness the smoker goes scot free. Is it not pertinent to ask why the law should punish a man for spitting on the sidewalk because some one might contract a germ disease as a result of his carelessness, while no punishment is fixed to deter him from throwing fire about, although millions of dollars worth of property and many lives may be lost if the butt or match chances to fall where it can start a fire. The crusade of the anti-smoke contingent is not making much headway as a moral issue, a movement for the improvement of public health or an agitation against the boorish individual who is discourteous to those with whom he comes in contact, says the Louisville Courier-Journal. If it should result in the enactment of city ordinances making it a misdemeanor to throw lighted matches and butts about, and in state laws providing punishment where it is possible to fix the blame for a fire upon a negligent smoker, millions of dollars' worth of property and many lives might be saved. The habit of smoking cannot be ended by agitation.

When does slang cease to be slang? This is not a conundrum, but the inquiry of a correspondent who seeks to know what length of life a word must have, how long must it be used and generally understood, before it passes from being, as it were, an undesirable alien in the realm of our words and becomes naturalized. Every schoolboy knows that "the herring-pond" means the sea. Most people would probably term it an Americanism referring to the Atlantic ocean. The only dictionary handy duly admits the hyphenated word, describes it as slang, and illustrates it with "to be sent across the herring-pond: to be transported," says the London Chronicle. The word was used as long ago as 1763, when an English ambassador wrote from Calais to a secretary of state that he had "traversed the herring-pond after about ten hours' sail."

The burglar will always be about seeking for a chance to rob, and the police problem is how to reduce the ranks of these thieves to a minimum and make their work so dangerous that few will dare to undertake it. Carelessness and forgetfulness on the part of the housekeeper make the work of these gentry far easier than it would otherwise be. The police generally do the best they can, but they could do far better were not the burglars offered so many golden opportunities for the work they are always so ready to do.

A one-pounder mounted on a gun carriage is said now to solve the problem of firing at aeroplanes. How such a weapon could be effectively sighted remains to be shown. The conviction grows that efforts to prepare for the aerial battleship should be along the line of perfecting the sight, enlarging the caliber and lengthening the range of sharpshooter rifles, and training men for their speediest and most accurate use.

The seizure of Dr. Richter, a noted German engineer, by Greek bandits who held him for a ransome of $225,000 will be apt to cause travelers to avoid Mount Olympus until assurance is received that the government of Greece is strong enough to prevent such proceedings by the Greek National society, so-called, for the replenishment of the society's treasury.

A Boston Chinaman is going back to his native land after having amassed a fortune of half a million dollars out of chop suey. We venture to predict that he will lose his head if he ever tries to spring that American invention on his fellow countrymen.

When we read how the aviators are held up by rain and fogs and other weather conditions it becomes more and more evident that an immense development must come in the flying machine before it arrives at the stage of much usefulness.

In certain parts of the country farmers have been cutting hay with their automobiles. Unfortunately it will not be possible for many of them to dig potatoes with automobiles this year.

One difference between joy riders and night riders is that joy riders sometimes manage to kill themselves. But they are both dangerous to the innocent bystanders.

COVER CROPS BENEFIT

Where Irrigation Water Is Abundant Alfalfa Is Grown.

Being Deep Rooting Legume, It May Be of Advantage to Orchards Where Moisture Is Plentiful —Some Objections.

Successful irrigation is not conditioned upon clean cultivation; in fact, it may be quite otherwise. Cover crops are sometimes of andvantage. Recent practice in some parts where irrigation water is abundant beyond the requirements of the tree, is to grow alfalfa in the orchard. Being a deep rooting legume, it may be of advantage to the trees in the presence of ample moisture, while with scant moisture it would rob the trees and practically ruin them. In the hot irrigated valleys of Arizona a cover crop of alfalfa reduces the soil temperature, prevents the reflection of heat which occurs from a light-colored soil surface, and is said to insure thrifty young trees where clean culture destroys them. In cooler parts of the arid region, as in the mountain valleys of northeastern California and in Idaho, alfalfa is also grown in irrigated orchards. These facts are of wide significance as showing that irrigation may be found of benefit even where clean culture may not be thought desirable. It is certainly reasonable that if a cover crop is grown at all it should be attended by the surety that the trees shall not suffer for moisture, and they unquestionably do sometimes suffer seriously under old turf, even in lands of summer rains.

This view is wholly apart from the subject of exhaustion of soil fertility by intercropping. Of course, compensation for the depletion must be made by use of fertilizers, and whether the intercrop secured yields a profit upon such investment is a calculation foreign to this discussion. The purpose simply is to emphasize the fact that on rich soil ample irrigation can produce good fruit on an intercropped orchard, and it can do the same on a pastured orchard, but the height and form of a cow-pruned fruit tree is totally abhorrent to present ideals.

A cover crop and intercrop are, however, somewhat different things. The growth of a cultivated crop between the rows of fruit trees is permissible if the land is rich, and moisture, either by rainfall or by irrigation, is ample; but experience has shown that such a crop is only profitable while the trees are very young. As the trees expand they repress the growth of the intercrop below the profit mark, and give no further inducement to the grower to longer endanger the future of his trees by dividing their sustenance with the intercrop. On the other hand, a cover crop, if it be a legume, may re-enforce the humus in the soil. One of the objections to continuous clean culture in the arid region is the tendency of the soil to lose humus and to become lifeless and refractory. The growth of clovers, peas, and other hardy legumes during the winter season, when the moisture is usually abundant, is being widely resorted to for the purpose of restoring humus. The summer growth of tender legumes with ample irrigation is therefore, for this reason, as well as for lowering the soil temperature and escaping other effects of excessive temperature, worthy of consideration if water is ample enough to support the cover crop and the trees.

Clearly where such practice is advisable the irrigation method must be suitable. If the land is nearly level, low check levees on contour lines will restrain sufficient water and not interfere with the use of the mower. Such contour checks may inclose a considerable number of trees. With greater slope the square check system inclosing a single tree may be necessary, or flooding down the spaces between the trees, with a low levee along each row, may be the most available system, except in small orchards, where pipe lines, hydrants, and sprinkling may be used.—Farmers Bulletin No. 116.

Saving Squash.

The squashes on our vines last year were only fairly set on September 6, when signs of frost were apparent. We covered each little squash with lawn clippings and left the covering on for several weeks, says a writer in an exchange. The leaves died, but the roots continued to afford nourishment to the squashes, which were of the Marblehead and Butman varieties. By October 25 they were quite large, when they were gathered, carried to a dry, warm room and laid on the floor before a sunny window. In two weeks more they were in nice condition for cooking, fairly dry and of good flavor.

Mowing Meadows.

By mowing the meadow just after the bloom falls, the hay will retain more of its rich, grass flavor than if it is allowed to stand till thoroughly ripened. Early cut hay also is easier of digestion and not so liable to cause digestive derangements among live stock as is the late-cut product.

Fall Seeded Alfalfa.

If fall seeded alfalfa cannot make rapid growth in the spring it is at a disadvantage as compared with spring seeded alfalfa that can be sown on clean soil on which one or two crops of weed seeds have been killed before seeding.

NEW OUTFIT FOR IRRIGATION

Water Lifter of Recent Manufacture Is Excellent for Use on Extremely High Ground.

Farmers who either flooded or ran water down listed out furrows before the crop was planted this last spring are the ones, if they irrigated at the proper periods afterward, who are reaping the potatoes, beets and garden truck. Where no irrigating was done until after the crop was up the crop was much less, and in some cases, even with proper watering, the crop has been a failure, simply because of the bottom moisture at the start.

A trial is being made of many kinds of pumps, makeshifts, elevators and lifters. Each class has its place—its advocates. The centifugal pumps are hard to beat on low lifts, but where the water must be raised, say 20 feet or over, they have some capable competitors, writes C. Bolles in the Farm, Stock and Home. One of these is a true water lifter, of rather recent manufacture, which lifts the water to 20 feet or more with less power than many other styles. The lifter in use here is the 500-gallon-per-minute type and requires four horsepower for that capacity.

The machine consists essentially of 56 eight-gallon buckets (galvanized sheet steel) swung between two cog chains. These chains turn about two large cog wheels suspended loosely in the well (or pit), at the top the chain cog wheels get their power through back-geared friction pulleys. There are two shaftings; one carries the chain cog wheel and larger friction wheels, the other the belt pulley and smaller friction pulleys.

As the ascending buckets begin their backward journey the water is dumped into a centrally placed receptacle, directly underneath the shaftings. From this vessel the water flows out around the ascending buckets to an outflowing trough. There is a brake, so that if the machine stops at any time the chains are locked right where they stop running. Friction is also reduced to a minimum through the use of roller bearings. The farmer who bought this lifter paid something like $290 for it, or with the engine the outfit would cost him about $425. One good feature of this machine is that he is running it with a two-horsepower engine, though but one-third to one-half the buckets are in use.

The operator is working on the problem of pumping from wells, the wells being supplied from sand points driven in the bottom. At present from a well 9 feet across, 17 feet to water, 7 feet of water, and four points, two 18 feet down and the other two 27 feet down, the flow is close to 80 gallons per minute. These points are two inches in diameter.

Quarantine New Bird.

Never introduce a new bird into the regular yard until it has been duly quarantined. Keep it alone for a week and note its condition, appetite, etc. Disease is often introduced into a flock by carelessness in this matter.

FARM NOTES.

Crude oil is almost a cure all.

Silage is rapidly becoming a factor in feeding operations.

Plan to have plenty of shade about your place next year.

Rotation is very necessary to the growing of profitable crops.

If you have any metal roofs, it is policy to ground them. It can be done at very slight expense.

The storage of celery on a large scale is only practicable by the aid of special houses for the purpose.

On most farms, several acres of ground might be saved by a better arrangement of the fields and fences.

Always clean out the yards before winter begins. It is far easier to keep them in condition when this is done.

A Frenchman has invented a machine for mowing weeds and other under water growths in streams and lakes.

Hundreds of farmers are hogging down rye. Between rye and corn we have two mighty good crops to turn the hogs into.

An aftermath of grass in a cornfield is not a bad thing for the field, especially where all the fodder growth is in the shock.

Alfalfa and clover hay cut when it is greenest and cured in the cock under caps will help wonderfully to keep the milk yellow.

Don't forget to plow the field where the 'hopper has laid its eggs. That field, if left undisturbed, will hatch out trouble next year.

The dog question is receiving a great deal of attention in many farm publications. Many dogs are valuable while many more are not.

Brick and cement are about as cheap as lumber, and last many times as long. It is certainly a waste to use much wood for floors or sills.

From now on, silage will have to be reckoned with in fattening operations, and the sooner you get in the band wagon the better off you will be.

Better plan on saving the manure now. Thousands of dollars worth of fertility leaks away each year on account of improperly located manure piles and barn yards.

Grasses in permanent pastures or meadows require more care than those that are grown in rotation with other crops. It is advisable to reseed permanent pastures occasionally.

Hollow tile building blocks are becoming more popular each year. They are cheap, costing but little more a square foot than lumber, and if of good quality will last indefinitely.

TALES OF GOTHAM AND OTHER CITIES

Painted Meat and Aged Eggs in Gotham

NEW YORK—Since the first of this year the state bureau of food inspection has condemned 10,486,778 pounds of food as rotten or adulterated. Most of the food condemned was in New York city.

The other day the first of the group of offenders were arraigned and must appear for trial. Most of them were dealers from the lower part of the city, and the charge against them alleged the possession of decayed chickens, soured condensed milk, spoiled corned beef, dyed chopped meat, spoiled meat of all kinds, rotten eggs, bad butter and decayed fruits.

According to reports there are even worse articles in restaurants and stores, such as painted fish, spoiled meat dipped in formaldehyde and reddened so as to look fresh, ice cream containing wood alcohol, candies containing poisonous dyes and soda sirups made of coal tar.

"We have found bad butter—a mess," says Dr. McMillan, chief of the inspectors, "that was a mixture of good and bad butter or oleo and bad butter and good butter all mixed and treated so that it looked palatable. In one of the cellars of a restaurant man I found hams that he had bought at a navy sale of rejected foods, and he had, in addition, many pounds of rotten tomatoes. On the stands of street venders we have found a goodly amount of decayed vegetables and fruit, which, strangely enough, people buy.

"As soon as rotten food is discovered by inspectors it is denatured by methylene blue or some like acid, unless it is needed for chemical analysis.

"Meats can be treated effectively with formaldehyde. A piece of tainted meat, black and malodorous, is often washed in the acid, we find, and is then sold for good meat, red and fresh looking, as its treatment makes it.

"The rotten egg industry is not yet dead. Recently I found 171 cans of 'spot' eggs in one man's cellar and 42 in another. Each can contained 30 dozen eggs. If fresh eggs are put into cold storage in summer, they will keep nicely for six months. If they are put in in cold weather, they will keep for a year. Longer periods than those result in eggs that are not fit for human consumption."

Indianapolis Has a Municipal Market

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—Believing that Indianapolis commission firms combined to maintain high prices by keeping down the supply of farm products, Mayor Shank brought a car load of potatoes from Wisconsin and sold them at cost, plus a small sum for buying, handling and delivering. In less than a week the price of potatoes dropped 50 per cent. as a result. The mayor has now proposed to the council that it authorize the employment of a municipal buyer to follow the sale prices of the dealers and the prices charged by producers.

"I am convinced," the mayor said, "that if 25 of our leading cities would do this the combines that maintain high prices could be broken. There are thousands and thousands of bushels of pears and apples going to waste in the orchards of Indiana because the commission firms plan to keep the visible supply down and keep up the prices. The same conditions exist in other states and cities."

The mayor had charge of the first car load of potatoes, and there was a remarkable scene at the city market when the first car was sold. It had been announced that any one person could buy as much as a bushel for 75 cents, a peck at 20 cents or half a peck for a dime.

As early as three o'clock the crowds began gathering. Customers went there on foot, horseback, in carriages and automobiles. When the first wagon load arrived and the mayor announced the sale was on, there was a continual clamor for potatoes until ten o'clock, when the car load had been sold.

The potatoes were sold by weight and not by measure. There are 60 pounds to a bushel and it was found that 60 pounds always heaped high a bushel measure. So with the measures of less denomination. One man remarked he could buy potatoes at 75 cents by weight, sell them at 75 cents by measure and make money.

Following his first experiment in selling direct to the consumer, the mayor sent expert buyers into the potato and fruit districts of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. He says the buyers found that there are large crops of potatoes and apples and other fruits, although it has been maintained by the dealers that the potato crop is a failure.

Prison Warden's Novel Experiments

TOPEKA, Kan.—A new plan, intended to give Kansas convicts a new idea of life, has been put into effect at the Kansas penitentiary, according to the report of Warden J. K. Codding to Governor Stubbs. Every man that is sent to the prison is given six months' work on the farm just previous to his release. The men get out in the open. They are tanned and sunburned, have more liberty, less discipline, get close to nature and leave the prison with the hatred of men and laws gone and really wanting to try to live better lives. Since the new system has been tried not one released convict has come back. Warden Codding believes that through this system Kansas may gain a record for a minimum number of second-term men which will be lower than that of any other state.

Many years ago an island in the Missouri river was sold to the state by some political sharpers, who made a lot of money in the deal. The island has never been used, and the lands owned by the state around the prison have never been used to any great extent for farming.

Warden Codding began work two years ago, and the first thing he did was to give the prisoners half an hour's liberty each day in the prison yard. The men can do anything they wish during that half hour. They can talk to each other and and the guard, play ball, pitch horse shoes, play croquet or a dozen other games.

The prisoners had been morose and sullen, and there were 22 insane prisoners in the hospital and a half dozen tuberculosis patients. The plan was adopted to see if the insanity and tuberculosis could not be stopped. Not a new patient has developed in 14 months, and there is not a single prisoner in the tuberculosis hospital at this time.

Finds a $1,000 Pearl in Clam Shell

CHICAGO.—A $1,000 pearl, found in a clam bake and subsequently forcibly taken away by the dealer who supplied the shellfish, was taken into custody the other day by Capt. Max Danner of the police department, pending a decision by Municipal Judge Caverly of a question equally perplexing as that of the egg laid by the famous Maywood hen. As a result Judge Caverly was expected to give the correct answer to the following question:

"If a clam dealer is ordered to supply clams for a church dinner and gives some of them to a carpenter, who finds a $1,000 pearl in one of the shells, does the gem beong to the church?"

Our Lady of Lourdes church, Leland and North Ashland avenues, recently gave a clam bake and ordered the clams for the feast from Frank J. Dugget, 70 South Water street. While carrying the clams into the church Dugget gave half a dozen to Elmer Thesen, a carpenter, who was at work in the building.

Thesen opened one of the shells and found the pearl. Thereupon Dugget claimed the gem as his property, and an argument regarding the ownership followed, resulting in the dealer forcibly taking possession of the pearl. Thesen then had Dugget arrested on a charge of larceny and the case was called before Judge Caverly.

After pondering on the details, the judge suggested that the pearl should rightfully belong to the church which had purchased the clams. Immediately Thesen and Dugget joined ranks against their common contestant, the church, and refused to listen to any terms of settlement by which they both would "lose out." Accordingly, the judge continued his ruling and gave the gem to Captain Danner for safekeeping.

Toasting the Teachers.

There was a meeting of the new teachers and the old. It was a sort of love feast, reception or whatever you call it. Anyhow, all the teachers got together and pretended they didn't have a care in the world. After the eats were et the symposiarch proposed a toast:

"Long Live Our Teachers!"

It was drank enthusiastically. One of the new teachers was called on to respond. He modestly accepted. His answer was:

"What on?"

A Bad Sign.

She—If I were you, dear, I would not send for that plumber again who came today. He's too inexperienced.

He—Didn't he do the work right?

She—Yes, he did the work all right, but he brought all the tools he needed with him.

Small Circulation.

Shopman—Here is a very nice thing in revolving bookcases, madam.

Mrs. Newrich—Oh, are those revolving bookcases? I thought they called them circulating libraries.—Christian Register.